THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) According to the data released by Central Statistical Organization (CSO)], the growth rate in agriculture, including allied sectors for forestry and logging, and fishing, was negative (-7%) in 2002-2003 while it was 9.6% in 2003-2004. According to advance estimates released by the CSO, growth rate in agricluture, including allied sectors, in 2004-05 is 1.1%. The average annual growth rate for the first three years of the Tenth Plan works out to 1.2%.

(b) Since about 60 per cent of the net sown area is rain-fed, agricultural production is heavily influenced by rainfall. The year 2002-03 witnessed a severe drought that affected several States in the country. The favourable rainfall from the southwest monsoon in 2003-04 boosted agricultural production. However, the rainfall from the south-west monsoon in the year 2004-05 was deficient across time and space. Though the deficiency in rainfall from the south-west monsoon in 2004 was less serious than that in 2002 both for the whole season and for the agriculturally important month of July, the kharif crop production in 2004-05 was adversely affected by deficient rainfall.

(c) With a view to increasing agricultural production, the Government have identified thrust areas for focused and priority attention, which include agricultural credit, irrigation, horticulture, and marketing reforms. The Union Budget for 2005-06 has underscored the importance of efforts aimed at turning the focus of commercial banks, regional rural banks and co-operative banks towards providing credit, especially production credit, to farm households. The other areas highlighted in the Budget include micro irrigation technology comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation, National Horiticulture Mission with focus on backward and forward linkages, and development/strengthening of agricultural marketing infrastructure, grading and standardization.

Safe blood to AIDS patients

*69. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to provide safe and quality blood to the patients under the National AIDS Control Programme;

(b) whether any financial grant has been allocated therefor; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) The Government is already implementing a scheme to provide safe and adequate quantity of blood, blood components and blood products to the needy citizens. Since one of the routes for transmission of HIV/AIDS is through blood transfusion, the Government has included Blood Safety as a major component under National AIDS Control Programme. During the first phase of the programme, the Government undertook a major task for modernizing and strengthening all blood banks in the Government sector and some in the voluntary and charitable sector.

During phase I of national AIDS Control Programme (1992-99), Government has modernized 855 blood banks either as District Level Blood Banks, Major Blood Banks or Blood Component Separation Units.

Realizing the need of safe blood and its components, the scheme of modernizing blood banks has been continued during phase II of the National AIDS Control Programme (1999-2006) also. In this phase, modernization of additional 165 blood banks in different from *i.e.* District Level Blood Banks, Major Blood Banks and Blood Component Separation Units has also been carried out.

The financial assistance admissible to blood banks under the programme is as under:—

(a) One time equipment grant on the following lines:—

Distt. Level Blood Bank	-	Rs. 1.25 lakhs
Major Blood Banks	-	Rs 3.19 lakhs
Blood Component Separation Units:	-	Rs. 27.69 lakhs

(b) Recurring assistance as given below:—

Blood Bank	Consumable (Rs. in lakhs)	Salary of Technician (Rs. in lakhs)	Contingency (Rs. in lakhs)	Total (Rs. in lakhs)
District Blood Bank	1.25	0.78	-	2.03
Major Blood Bank	3.00	0.78	-	3.78
Blood Component Separation Unit	12.00	1.00	1.00	14.00
Zonal Blood Testing Centre	0.30	1.56	-	1.86

The allocation of funds to blood banks, Statewise, for the year 2004-05 is annexed as Statement.

Statement

Allocation of funds to blood banks in 2004-05

Sl. No.	State	Amount (Rs. in lacs)
1	A & N Islands	18.84
2	Andhra Pradesh	229
3	Arunachal Pradesh	33.28
4	Assam	86.11
5	Bihar	113
6	Jharkhand	40
7	Chandigarh	21.56
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	4.06
9	Daman & Diu	2.03
10	Delhi	53.62
11	Goa	22.58
12	Gujarat	164.12
13	Haryana	63.09
14	Himachal Pradesh	36.57
15	Jammu & Kashmir	84.23
16	Karnataka	184
17	Kerala	173.01
18	Lakshadweep	2.03
19	Madhya Pradesh	148
20	Chhattisgarh	39.94
21	Maharashtra	214.59
22	Manipur	36.85
23	Meghalaya	15.92
24	Mizoram	25.9
25	Nagaland	23.26
26	Orissa	120.7
27	Pondicherry	23
28	Punjab	102.04
29	Rajasthan	93.88
30	Sikkim	8.92
31	Tamil Nadu	233.4
32	Tripura	33.46
33	Uttar Pradesh	246.01
34	Uttaranchal	40.02
35	West Bengal	256
36	Ahmedabad MC	44.46
37	Chennai MC	79.24
38	Mumbai MC	94.9
	TOTAL:	3211.62